

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

There are no claim amendments. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 9-15. The Examiner allowed claims 16-23 and objected claims 3-8. Objected claims will be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

The Examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatakeyama(US2002/0002507) in view of Hofmann(US 6,311,241). The Examiner argued that Hatakeyama teaches a wireless mobile device, a connector and a magnetic stripe reader module but fails to teach connecting the magnetic stripe reader module to the mobile device via a SIM card slot. The Examiner further argued that Hoffman teaches connecting a magnetic stripe reader module to a mobile device via a SIM card slot and the combination of Hatakeyama and Hoffman would have been obvious. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statements regarding Hoffman's teaching and the obviousness of the combination for the following reasons.

Referring to FIG. 2 , column 1, lines 12-15, column 2, lines 15-25, and column 3, lines 38-60, Hoffman teaches transferring programs from a plug-in-device with a SIM interface to an electronic unit (i.e., a mobile radio terminal). The plug-in-device is adapted to a slot of the electronic unit, which in the case of a GSM phone is a slot for receiving a SIM card (column 3, lines 25-33). However, claim 1 of the present invention differs from Hoffman's teaching because in addition to connecting a magnetic stripe reader to a SIM card slot of the mobile device, the reader module has the ability to receive and read information stored in a magnetic stripe and then transmit the information to an entity via the wireless network. In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides a unit that functions simultaneously as a mobile phone (i.e., transmits information via the wireless network) and as a magnetic stripe reader (i.e., reads information from the magnetic stripe). Contrary to that, Hoffman's teachings make the electronic unit incapable of operating as a phone during the time the programs are transferred from the plug-in-device to the electronic unit. This is very clearly indicated in

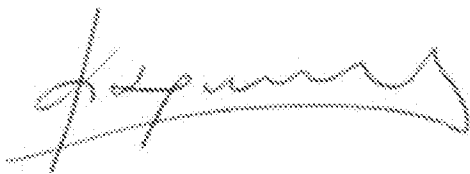
FIG. 1 of Hoffman at the Yes/No node between blocks 20, 30 and 40, and the corresponding description in column 2, lines 58-62. According to this description Hoffman's electronic unit functions as a normal phone if a SIM card is plugged in the SIM slot or as a program reader if the plug-in-device is plugged in the SIM slot.

There is still an inventive step missing that would enable the card reader/writer to connect to the SIM slot while maintaining the ability of the mobile phone to communicate with the network. This inventive step is provided by the present invention, as claimed in claim 1. Accordingly it is believed claim 1 is patentable distinguishable from Hoffman or Hatakeyama either alone or in combination. The same arguments are valid for independent claim 15. Claims 2, and 9-14 depend upon claim 1 and since claim 1 is patentable distinguishable from Hoffman or Hatakeyama either alone or in combination, they should also be distinguishable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all claims 1-23 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims rejection is requested and allowance of all claims at an early date is solicited.

If this response is found to be incomplete, or if a telephone conference would otherwise be helpful, please call the undersigned at 617-558-5389

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aliko K. Collins', with a stylized, flowing script.

Aliko K. Collins, Ph.D.

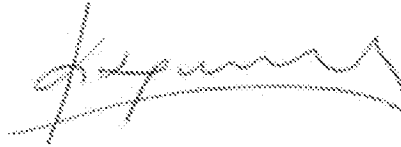
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Name: Aliko K. Collins, Ph.D. Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aliko K. Collins', written over a horizontal line.

I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.10 that this correspondence is being electronically deposited on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450